

## Special Issue on Workforce Development

### Guide Boosts Employer Partnerships for Job Advancement of Low-Skilled Workers

OVAE's Literacy Information and Communication System (LINCS) recently posted a guide with useful ideas for establishing employer partnerships that improve economic outcomes for both low-skilled workers and businesses. [Partnering with Employers to Promote Job Advancement for Low-Skill Individuals](#) includes examples of successful incumbent worker training efforts, pre-employment and bridge programs, "sectoral" training designed to provide industry-specific expertise, career pathways and industry-based certification programs. Also helpful is its review of policy considerations for creating and sustaining employer partnerships that provide skill development opportunities. The publication was funded by the former National Institute for Literacy, Urban Institute, and the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

### New Report on Technical Skill Attainment in Pennsylvania

The National Research Center for Career and Technical Education (NRCCTE), supported by a grant from OVAE, conducts research on a variety of issues related to career and technical education. NRCCTE recently posted the new report, *Technical Skill Attainment and Post-Program Outcomes: An Analysis of Pennsylvania Secondary Career and Technical Education Graduates*. Past research has not fully related technical skill levels, as measured by high school graduates' performance on broad work readiness or narrow, occupation-specific technical skill assessments, to their subsequent employment and/or postsecondary enrollment outcomes. This study analyzed data for more than 21,500 graduates of Pennsylvania's career and technical high school programs who completed a workplace readiness or occupation-specific assessment developed by the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute and controlled for students' demographic characteristics and educational experiences, by connecting assessment score record data with student-level administrative records maintained by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Career and Technical Education. Follow-up data on graduates' post-program work experiences were obtained from a state survey administered to all CTE program graduates to ascertain their job status in the second quarter following their high school completion. The full report may be obtained from the NRCCTE website: [www.nrccte.org](http://www.nrccte.org).

### Critical Role for CTE in Worker Retraining—Issue Brief Available

[The Association for Career and Technical Education \(ACTE\)](#) recently released the issue brief, [CTE's Role in Worker Retraining](#), which describes the pivotal role career and technical education programs play in retraining adults. CTE worker retraining programs strive to achieve the following three goals:

1. provide adults with the skills needed to re-enter the workforce or to advance along career pathways;
2. fit the needs of the adult population; and
3. focus on local employment needs.

CTE worker retraining programs allow participating adults to earn industry certifications, certificates or degrees through short-term and accelerated programs and flexible learning approaches that help them compete in today's workforce.

To obtain a copy of the paper, click on the title above.

### DOL Guide Covers State and Local Employment and Economic Data

The U.S. Department of Labor's [Guide to State and Local Workforce Data](#) provides links to a wealth of state and local employment and economic data — virtually all free — from government and private sector sources. The publication is designed for a diverse audience, including educators, researchers, employers, trainers and career counselors, who can customize the data for their own use. The education section focuses on workforce preparedness through data on educational attainment, assessment, literacy and credentials.